THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): In view of the free movement of these items, imported commodities like wheat, sugar and pulses are sold in various parts of the country, based on the demand and prevailing open market prices.

Export/Import of wheat

1829. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of target set by Government for exporting/importing wheat in the country;

(b) the names of the countries which have sent their demand for exporting wheat during the last, three years and till date; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No target has been fixed by the Government for export of wheat. As regards import of wheat, in addition to 35 lakh MTs already contracted for supply through the State Trading Corporation, additional import of wheat will be resorted to the extent required to maintain the prescribed buffer norms and to meet the commitment under Targeted Public Distribution System and other welfare schemes.

(b) and (c) No formal demand for export of wheat has been received and the Government has authorized the STC this year to import wheat through open tender process.

Sanction for custom milling of Wheat

1830. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction has been given to States for custom milling of wheat into Atta for distributing of PDS card holders;

(b) if so, the details of the States which have been accorded the sanction so far;

(c) whether Government of Kerala has requested to allot portion of PDS wheat for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Government has allowed the conversion of a portion of TPDS wheat into atta for distribution to ration cardholders through fair price shops in the N.E. and Hilly States and distribution of fortified atta in other States subject to certain terms and conditions *vide* guidelines issued on 21.12.2005. So far permission for implementing the scheme has been given to the States of H.P., Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim, West Bengal (Darjeeling Distt.) and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala has recently requested for allowing the conversion of TPDS wheat into atta for supply to ration cardholders in the State.

Procurement and Import of Wheat

† 1831. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of wheat in tonnes in the godowns of F.C.I. as on 1st April, 2006;

(b) the total quantity of wheat purchased by the F.C.I, from the farmers in the year 2006-07 alongwith the price thereof;

(c) whether procurement of wheat in the year 2005-06 stood at 147.87 lakh tonnes;

(d) the total procurement of wheat from the farmers by the multinationals as well as private traders in the year 2006,

(e) the total quantity of wheat decided by Government to be imported from abroad; and

(f) the quantity of wheat reached the harbours of the country in the months of June-July, 2006 alongwith the names of these harbours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH):

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.